

## CAPSULE SUMMARY

CT-472

Belcar, Evelyn B. Carpenter House

5095 Plum Point Road

Huntingtown, Calvert County, Maryland

c. 1879

Private

The Evelyn Carpenter House and Farm, also known as Belcar, is significant architecturally, as the main house is a fine representation of a vernacular Victorian farmhouse of the late-nineteenth century, while its barns are representative of small farm outbuildings, including the vanishing Maryland tobacco barn. The property is also significant as a tobacco farm that made use of tenant farming and operated as a tourist destination, as Carpenter's Beach grew to be an important vacation community in the area. Its association with the Carpenter family, who has lived on the property since the late-nineteenth century, as well as its contributions to the development of Plum Point's tourism and tobacco industries, makes it a significant property along the Wilson Road corridor.

Belcar, The Evelyn Carpenter House, is located on the south side of Plum Point Road facing north. The house was constructed circa 1879 and is an example of a vernacular Victorian Frame House. It sits at the top of a hill, overlooking the bay to the east and agricultural fields to the south and west. The land is very open with few trees. The Carpenter Barns (CT-1348) are located north of Plum Point Road in addition to the barns south of the house, and the cottages on Carpenters Beach (CT-1349) are located to the southeast of the main house. There is a modern ranch house located to the east of Belcar, where Louise Carpenter Rymer lives. Belcar is currently uninhabited.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-472

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Evelyn B. Carpenter House (preferred)

other Belcar

## 2. Location

street and number 5095 Plum Point Road not for publication

city, town Huntingtown vicinity

county Calvert County

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Anne C. Jones, Louise C. Rymer, Frank A. II and Kay Diane Moore

street and number 4731 Angelica Drive telephone

city, town Huntingtown state MD zip code 20639-9294

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber 1024 folio 142

city, town Prince Frederick tax map 19 tax parcel 21 tax ID number 003139

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☒ Other: Evelyn Carpenter, "History of Carpenter's Beach." Unpublished, 1984.

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>

## 7. Description

Inventory No. CT-472

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### SUMMARY

Belcar, the Evelyn B. Carpenter House, is located on the south side of Plum Point Road facing north. The house was constructed circa 1879 and is an example of a vernacular Victorian Frame House.<sup>1</sup> It sits at the top of a hill, overlooking the bay to the east and agricultural fields to the south and west. The land is very open with few trees. The Carpenter Barns (CT-1348) are located north of Plum Point Road in addition to the barns south of the house, and the cottages on Carpenters Beach (CT-1349) are located to the southeast of the main house. There is a modern ranch house located to the east of Belcar, where Louise Carpenter Rymer lives. Belcar is currently uninhabited.

### DESCRIPTION

#### Belcar-Main House

This three-by-two bay, two-story, I-house with a four-bay ell has a cross-gable roof clad in standing seam metal with partial cornice returns and a wide cornice. There is a wood, trefoil window in the gable peak of the façade. There are two interior end, brick chimneys with corbelled caps on the south and west ends of the house. The house is of wood-frame construction resting on a brick pier foundation with concrete infill and is clad in a secondary sheathing of asbestos shingles. The fenestration is asymmetrical with single, two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows on the first story. The second story and side elevations have both two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows and smaller six-over-one double-hung wood sash windows. The windows have wood sills, casing and framing and wood louvered shutters. The entry door is unglazed and paneled wood with a three-light transom and two three-light, one-panel sidelights. The entry is protected by a one-bay, one-story porch with a hipped-roof clad in standing seam metal and supported by Tuscan wood columns. The porch is accessed by four brick steps with a brick knee wall.

There are five additions to the main house. The first is a one-by-two bay, one-story addition off the east elevation that is clad like the house with a hip-roof clad in standing seam metal with overhanging eaves. The addition rests on a concrete foundation. The windows on the addition are single, six-over-one, double-hung wood sash on the north and south elevations, and there is a ribbon of three six-over-one, double-hung wood sash on the east elevation. The windows are surrounded by louvered wood shutters.

The second addition is located off the west elevation of the main house and is one-by-one bay, one-story, with a hip-roof clad in standing seam metal with overhanging eaves. The addition is clad like the main house. The windows are ribbons of three, six-over-one wood windows with louvered wood shutters. The windows are covered by awnings on the west elevation. There is a louvered glass entry door on the main facade of the addition.

<sup>1</sup> Carpenter, Evelyn B. "A History of Carpenter's Beach," Unpublished, 1984: 3.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

1879-

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

circa 1879

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SUMMARY

Calvert County encompasses a narrow piece of land between the Chesapeake Bay to the east, and the Patuxent River to the west and south. It is surrounded by water on all sides except to the north where it adjoins Anne Arundel County. Calvert County is the smallest of the five counties of Southern Maryland and fourth oldest in Maryland.<sup>2</sup> Although the County once stretched to the headwaters of the Patuxent River in modern-day Frederick County, it now measures only 218 square miles, making it the smallest of all Maryland counties. High cliffs characterize Calvert County's bay side shoreline. Conversely, the numerous creeks along the Patuxent River facilitated maritime traffic, servicing the County's richest agricultural lands. Wilson Road runs parallel to the Chesapeake Bay and is bound to the north by Plum Point Road and to the south by Emmanuel Church Road. Huntingtown and Prince Frederick are the two largest towns in close proximity. Belcar is located on a stretch of road between the Wilson Road and Plum Point Road intersection to the north and the Wilson Road and Emmanuel Church Road intersection to the south.

Ornate and modest twentieth century homesteads, tobacco barns, farm outbuildings, and tenant houses are linked by Wilson Road, which has been a prominent local thoroughfare since the mid-nineteenth century. Other significant landscape features along Wilson Road in the mid-nineteenth century include a steamship landing, a wharf and a windmill located at Plum Point.<sup>3</sup> Dunn Road is the only other road that dates to the mid-nineteenth century. Dunn Road branches off Wilson Road and originally extended all the way east to the Bay and as far west as the Freeland properties.<sup>4</sup> Today, Dunn Road ends at Suit's Chance, a farm in a County Agricultural Preservation District.<sup>5</sup> In historic maps dating to the mid-nineteenth century, many large farm properties stand along Wilson Road including Letchworth's Chance (CT-25), the Ireland Farm (CT-26), the Owen H. Jones

<sup>2</sup> Stein, Charles Francis. "A History of Calvert County." Schneidereith & Sons: Baltimore, 1977: 1.

<sup>3</sup> 1865 Martenet Atlas of Maryland.

<sup>4</sup> Morris Suit Interview. Oral History Interview with Amy Bolasky Skinner for Wilson Road Historic Context Study, 10 March 2009.

<sup>5</sup> Morris Suit Interview.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Carpenter Family Vertical Files, Calvert County Historical Society. Unpublished.  
Carpenter Family Vertical Files, Calvert County Historical Society. Unpublished.  
Dames & Moore, "*Historic Sites Context Study and National Register Evaluation*." The Calvert County Historic District Commission, 1995  
"*Tobacco Barns: Calvert County Maryland*." Calvert County Historic District Commission, 1991.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property	61.93 acres	
Acreage of historical setting	61.93 acres	
Quadrangle name	Prince Frederick	Quadrangle scale: 1: 24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Carpenter Property is made up of 61.93 acres at the north end of Wilson Road, south of Plum Point Road. There is a parcel located north of Plum Point Road at Wilson Road that also belongs to the Carpenters, as Plum Point Road once ran further north and has been straightened. The property innitailly ran west to Wilson Road, although the western end was subdivided in the 1990s. The parcel runs east to the Chesapeake Bay, and south to the Ireland Property.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Stacy Montgomery, Architectural Historian		
organization	The Ottery Group	date	August 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
street & number	3420 Morningwood Drive	telephone	301-562-1975
city or town	Olney	state	MD

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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



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The third addition is located on the south elevation and is one-by-one bay, one-story, with a hip-roof of a lower pitch than the main house. The roof is clad in standing seam metal and the addition is clad like the main house. The windows are two-over-two double-hung wood sash with wood louvered shutters. There is an exterior end brick chimney on the west elevation next to a set of concrete steps leading down to an outdoor entrance to the basement. There is a small, wood, pyramidal structure on the roof of this addition, which holds the bell for which the property ("Bellcar," Bell and Carpenter) was named.

There is a fourth one-by-one bay, one story side-gable addition off the southwest elevation that is clad like the house with a standing seam metal roof. The windows on the addition are paired four-pane louvered glass. There is a recessed porch with post supports off the west elevation with a louvered, two-pane glass storm door.

The fifth addition is located off the southeast elevation and is one-by-three bay, one-story in an L-shape. The addition has a hip-roof clad in standing seam metal and rests on a concrete block foundation. The addition is clad in asbestos shingles and has three-pane vertical windows with wood casings and paired six-over-one double-hung wood sash windows with wood louvered shutters on the south elevation. There are single six-over-one double-hung wood sash windows with wood louvered shutters and a ribbon of three windows where two six-over-one double-hung wood sash windows surround one large, single-pane picture window on the east elevation. There is a six-pane and wood panel door with a modern storm door on the east elevation that is accessed by four brick stairs off a patio with a metal railing. A brick pathway runs along the east elevation.

### Bellcar- Secondary Dwelling

There is a contributing one-by-one bay, one story dwelling, now used as a shed, off the southwest elevation of the house. The dwelling is clad in wood weatherboard with wider wood siding on the east façade. The dwelling rests on a concrete pier foundation and is covered by a front-gable roof. The roof is clad in corrugated metal. The entry is a pair of vertical wood doors with metal hinges and diagonal corners at the top of each door. There is a large brick patio to the east of this building.

### Bellcar- Barns

There are two barns on the Carpenter property, located south of the main house at the bottom of a hill, east of expansive agricultural fields. The first barn is a two-by-one bay, one story, rectangular-shaped barn with a gambrel roof that connects to a shed roof on the north elevation. The roof is clad in corrugated metal and is of steep pitch. This barn is of wood-frame construction with a concrete block foundation. The barn is clad in vertical wood siding that is not flush. There is a one-pane window on the west elevation. There is a vertical board door with a wood latch on the south elevation as well as an opening with diagonal corners and a 2-pane window. The wood sheathing on the south side has been partially replaced near the foundation with large corrugated metal sheets. Some of the wood has been reused in other places. This barn was most likely used for livestock and equipment storage given the shape and size of the opening as well as the current use of the barn.

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The second is a one-by-one bay, one-and-a-half story, front-gable, double-aisle barn with a steeply pitched roof clad in corrugated metal. The barn is of wood-frame construction and rests on concrete piers with a corrugated metal covering. The barn is clad in long vertical planks with hinges on each elevation, dating the barn to the twentieth century. There are doors on each elevation- one tall, single door on the façade, one paired wood door with metal hinges and a wood latch on the north elevation, and one tall, narrow door on the west elevation. The barn has a shed addition off the south elevation with two large doors with large wood latches. This barn was originally used for tobacco curing and maintains much of the requisite framing; however, the use has since been changed to hay storage. There are two other tobacco barns (CT-1348) associated with the Carpenter property that are located on the north side of Plum Point Road.

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Farm (CT-476), the Baden-Anderson Farm (CT-27), and a modest side-parlor house known as the Plank House (CT-257).<sup>6</sup>

The Wilson Road area can be found on maps dating to the seventeenth century. Augustine Hermann placed Plum Point on his map in 1675, and depicted a number of plantations along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River. Later, in the mid-nineteenth century, the Martenet map shows Plum Point in excellent detail. In 1892, the United States Geological Survey depicts Plum Point and Wilson Road, and subsequent modifications to this map by the USGS reveals various changes on the landscape, including the addition to new structures and the alteration of roadways, including Plum Point Road. For example the 1910 USGS Topographic Map shows three improved roads extending east from Wilson Road toward the Bay.<sup>7</sup> The northernmost road is Patience Place. The Ireland family farmstead (CT-26) is located along this road. Although the property and buildings were visible in the mid-nineteenth century, Patience Place does not appear mapped until about the early-twentieth century.<sup>8</sup> The next road to the south is Angelica Drive. The Owen H. Jones family farm (CT-476) is located at the end of this road. The Owen H. Jones farm can trace its roots to the Hance and Wilson families back to the mid-nineteenth century. The southernmost road is Camp Kaufmann Road. The Agnes Buckler House (CT-478), visible on the 1910 topographic map, is located at the end of Camp Kaufmann Road on a dirt trace.

The most significant change to the area occurs in the mid-twentieth century. The 1932 US Geological Survey Topographical Map shows subdivisions and new roads along Wilson Road as Calvert County connects with surrounding counties.<sup>9</sup> Letchworth's Chance (CT-25) is subdivided and the Neeld Estates appears with many private properties clustered along the Bay's shoreline. Additionally, on this map Dunn Road no longer connects to Stinnett Road. Since the 1930s Dunn Road has only been accessible from Wilson Road. A new road, branches east off Wilson Road, south of Patience Place. Paul Hance Road is the location of the original Paul Hance House (CT-474) as well as the former H. Oscar Bowen House (CT-473). Although they no are longer standing, both properties were visible in the mid-nineteenth century.

The last major alteration to the roads connecting to Wilson Road was documented in the 1939 Topographic Map surveyed by the US Department of Agriculture and also appears on the current Topographic Map for

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<sup>6</sup> A.D. Bache, United States Coast Survey, Western Shore of Chesapeake Bay, 1847. Available at the Calvert Marine Museum.

<sup>7</sup> Topographic Map of Prince Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle, United States Geological Survey, 1900. Available at the Calvert Marine Museum.

<sup>8</sup> Topographic Map of Prince Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle, United States Geological Survey, 1900. Available at the Calvert Marine Museum.

<sup>9</sup> Topographic Map of Prince Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle, United States Geological Survey, 1932. Available at the Calvert Marine Museum.



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Wilson Road.<sup>10</sup> The map shows the original northern curvature of Plum Point Road; however, it also demonstrates the changed and improved Plum Point Road running due east towards the Bay and the wharf ruins. The modern road takes this path.

The history of the Wilson Road area can be defined by two overarching themes: Agriculture and Transportation. The movement of goods, such as tobacco, was facilitated by water transportation that linked individual plantations to shipping centers in the County and around the Chesapeake Bay. Later, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the development of inland road networks became essential to the commercial success of Calvert's plantations.

Water transportation had always been the most effective means for shipping and receiving goods throughout Calvert County. Until the twentieth century roads in Calvert County were rural and unimproved; steamships took goods to places like Baltimore to be sold or shipped overseas. "The creation of regular commercial and passenger service on the Bay helped boost the local economy. The most successful of the early attempts to create a regular shipping line in Calvert County was established by Captain George Weems in 1817. The Weems Steamship Line was the principal carrier between the Port of Baltimore and southern Maryland."<sup>11</sup>

In the Wilson Road vicinity there was a wharf at Plum Point. The first wharf at Plum Point was located 250 to 300 feet north of the present Plum Point Road. It was relocated further south in 1893 and rebuilt three quarters of a mile long, "L-shaped" and one of the longest on the Chesapeake Bay. The location of the wharf was one catalyst for development along Wilson Road. Areas around the wharf became gathering places where locals could watch the ships load and use the private beaches. Some families allowed the public to park on their land while others created private beach cottages for rent.<sup>12</sup> The Wilson Store (later the Dixon Store) was a combined store and post office often frequented by locals and visitors alike. Plum Point was a bustling area along Wilson Road until August of 1933 when a hurricane devastated the farms and the crop along Wilson Road. The hurricane demolished the warehouse as well as most of the pier.

Wilson Road's association with agriculture can be seen in the landscape and found in the local relationships of residents. One result of the reliance on tobacco is seen in the area of Calvert County along the Bay, notably a lack of central towns, as well as "the significant role that elite planters had in the political and social life in the

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<sup>10</sup> Topographic Atlas of Maryland Counties of Calvert Charles and St. Mary's, United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1939. Available at the Calvert Marine Museum and Topographic Map of Prince Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle, United States Geological Survey, 1993. Available through Terrain Navigator.

<sup>11</sup> Dames & Moore, "Historic Sites Context Study and National Register Evaluation." The Calvert County Historic District Commission, 1995:4 and Stein 1977:169.

<sup>12</sup> Eshelman & Associates, "Calvert County Steamboat Wharves and Landings: Architectural Level Survey and Inventory." The Calvert County Historic District Commission, 1996 and Carpenter, Evelyn B. "A History of Carpenter's Beach." Calvert County Marine Museum: Unpublished manuscript, 1984.

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community, and the complex interrelationships between the various classes and races living together within the community.”<sup>13</sup> Wilson Road, an example of the broader characterization of Calvert County, was a prime location for tobacco farming, a “combination of favorable soil and topography, good river transportation and fortunate economic considerations contributed to Calvert County’s being overwhelmingly agricultural from its beginning, with tobacco the principal cash crop.”<sup>14</sup> Families settled along Wilson Road to live and grow tobacco. Wilson Road has no town center nearby with the closest town being Huntingtown, 9 miles to the northwest, or Prince Frederick 4.5 miles to the southwest. Being in such close proximity, all the families along Wilson Road socialized with, went to school with, worshipped with and often married one another. Many of the current residents along Wilson Road have surnames such as Bassford (later Carpenter), Wilson, Hance, Jones, Ireland. The expansive layout of family farms along the landscape of Wilson Road highlights the way Calvert County was settled as a result of tobacco farming. Tobacco would remain the chief crop and one of the defining features of the County until well into the late twentieth century.

After World War II with improvements to transportation a “dramatic change to the character and landscape of Calvert County” occurred.<sup>15</sup> The area is now linked to the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area and real estate prices have increased while demands for tobacco have decreased. With properties along Wilson Road no longer focused on tobacco farming tenants have moved away and dwellings are vacant. Many family homesteads have been subdivided to provide land and houses for current and future generations.

Despite modern changes to Calvert County, the agricultural landscape along Wilson Road is not so altered that one cannot discern the historic character. The Wilson Road area can be characterized as a rural farming community whose origins are firmly rooted in the production of tobacco. From its first settlements at places like Angelica in the 1600s, farming was the primary economic focus that helped establish the community along Wilson Road. In many ways, the community remains largely unaltered, with descendants of nineteenth century settlers still living in the area today, namely the Degges at Letchworth’s Chance (CT-25), the Carpenter’s at Bellcar (CT-472), the Ireland farm (CT-26), the Hance’s at Paul Hance Farm (CT-474), the Hance/Jones’ at Owen H. Jones Farm (CT-476), and the Buckler’s at Agnes H. Buckler Farm (CT-478 and S. Chester Buckler Farm CT-492). These families continue to leave their legacy along the landscape through the buildings, structures, and vistas that have historically characterized Calvert County.

Tobacco became the principal agricultural crop in Calvert County due, in part, to fertile soil conditions and the accessibility to water transportation. Tobacco grew naturally in Calvert County and was used by Native Americans; however, early Colonists cultivated a tobacco plant used by the Spanish in South America, known as Orinoco.<sup>16</sup> Maryland Broadleaf, a hybrid of the local wild tobacco and Orinoco tobacco is “cultivated and

<sup>13</sup> Kulikoff, Allan, “Tobacco and Slaves.” University of North Carolina: Chapel Hill, 1986 and Dames & Moore 1995: 5.

<sup>14</sup> Dames & Moore 1995: 4.

<sup>15</sup> Dames & Moore 1995: 17.

<sup>16</sup> Stein, 1977: 46.

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cured by methods which the early Colonists developed and became a distinctive type of tobacco in the world market.”<sup>17</sup>

Tobacco farming not only impacted the social networks along Wilson Road, it also had a profound effect on regional architecture. Maryland Broadleaf tobacco is best air-cured; this practice led to the development of a regional barn type. Tobacco barns specific to this region are “a type of structure in which the board siding of the barn is left with cracks or air spaces to permit the air to circulate, thereby drying and curing the tobacco.”<sup>18</sup> Barns were located in the middle of patches of tobacco, conveniently situated to take advantage of passing winds.<sup>19</sup> “Tobacco barns differed from other barns and granaries because they were built to satisfy two basic requirements: to provide a dry and protected building for storing tobacco leaves, and to allow for the circulation of air needed to cure the tobacco. Thus, the strength and durability of construction usually required for barns was modified to provide an open and well-ventilated interior in which to dry the leaves. Long poles spanning the width of the building were hung with tobacco and then set in several tiers.”<sup>20</sup>

Barns in Calvert County were constructed during three distinct periods, creating an evolution in the tobacco barn style. The earliest extant tobacco barns in Calvert County (1800-1830) were square in the barn’s main section and were built of heavy timbers. “Drying poles separated the interior into ‘rooms’ and formed the basis of the structural system. The standard barn consisted of four-foot rooms and eight-foot bays, although a system of five-foot rooms and ten-foot bays was common in the eighteenth century.”<sup>21</sup> Doorways were narrow, limited to foot traffic, and spanned with large, hand-hewn sills. Sheds for tobacco stripping and storage were commonly added to two, three or four sides.<sup>22</sup>

Between 1830 and 1900, farmers in Calvert County began to construct fairly standardized barns for curing tobacco. These barns are more rectangular than the square barns of the early-nineteenth century and often have only one original shed located on the south side.<sup>23</sup> The roof is usually an asymmetrical gable; there is a door for foot traffic on each long elevation. “On the interior, these barns had four tiers of poles below the plate and three above, with the small top known as the ‘cat tier.’”<sup>24</sup> In the Wilson Road vicinity, along Plum Point Road is the North tobacco barn, one of the two Carpenter Barns (CT-1348). The North tobacco barn has a steeply pitched,

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<sup>17</sup> Stein, 1977: 46.

<sup>18</sup> Stein, 1977: 46.

<sup>19</sup> Ranzetta, Kirk E. “The Myth of Agricultural Complacency: Tobacco Barns of St. Mary’s County, Maryland 1790-1890.” Building Environments Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture. Knoxville : The University of Tennessee Press:, 2005: 81-96.

<sup>20</sup> Dames & Moore, 1995: 4-5.

<sup>21</sup> Dames & Moore, 1995: 4-5.

<sup>22</sup> “Tobacco Barns: Calvert County Maryland.” Pamphlet. Calvert County Historic District Commission, 1991.

<sup>23</sup> “Tobacco Barns: Calvert County Maryland.” 1991.

<sup>24</sup> Dames & Moore, 1995: 4-7.

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front-gable roof with two shed-roof wings on the east and west elevations. The barn construction and layout date from 1830 to 1900.

The shift to mechanization on the tobacco farms of Calvert County in the twentieth century is evident in tobacco barn construction of this period. Low barns with doors in the gable ends began to appear; barns became longer structures with single or double aisle plans to provide access for modern farm vehicles. The large door opening now allowed a tractor to be driven through it, which improved efficiency. A specialized room for stripping tobacco is also found within the modern barn's footprint. The room might be heated or made more airtight (than the rest of the barn) for the comfort of the laborers.<sup>25</sup> The large number of vertical ventilation planks, propped open by hinges suggests a change in the method of ventilation. This new type of barn was often built "60, 80, or 100 feet in length."<sup>26</sup> An example of this type of tobacco barn can be found on the Ireland Farm (CT-26). The barn has a steeply pitched, metal standing seam, front-gable roof. It is a typical example of twentieth century tobacco barns in Calvert County with double aisle plan and interior stripping room. Other examples of twentieth century barns along Wilson Road can be found on the Owen H. Jones Farm (CT-476).

Although many tobacco barn styles can be found throughout Calvert County the most popular barn styles along Wilson Road are the asymmetrical and gambrel types, seen on the Carpenter, Ireland, and Jones Farms.<sup>27</sup> Asymmetrical gable roofs have gable roofs with a lower shed roof wing along the south elevation and are the distinctive feature of many barns built between 1830 and 1900, such as the Carpenter Farm's North barn. The gambrel-roof barn became more popular than previous traditional tobacco barn styles beginning in the 1940s due to the higher interior space provided to cure tobacco.

The Carpenter family has had a long history in Calvert County and along Wilson Road as residents, farmers, and entrepreneurs. The Carpenter family first came to the Colonies in 1636. The family settled in Massachusetts, and later migrated south.<sup>28</sup> Thomas L. Carpenter came to the county in 1874 and married Amelia Bassford, whose family owned land southwest of Plum Point.<sup>29</sup> After his wife's death, Thomas married Amelia's sister, Elizabeth, who was the widow of his neighbor John Hance Wilson. Elizabeth and Thomas had a son, George Oscar Carpenter who married Evelyn Bryant.<sup>30</sup> Evelyn worked as a school teacher at a one-room

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<sup>25</sup> Dames & Moore, 1995: 4-7.

<sup>26</sup> Martin, Christopher. Calvert County Tobacco Culture Survey, Phase III-Oral History and Folklife. Engineering Science, Chartered, 1992.

<sup>27</sup> "Tobacco Barns: Calvert County Maryland." 1991. Additional styles include: "Bonnet" Barns result when sheds on both gable ends extend past the barn's face forming a bonnet. This variation occurs in barns built between 1815 and 1880. Decorative elements such as gables, Palladian windows and elaborate doorways were added to some barns at the end of the nineteenth century. Double barns (two barns built side-by-side) share no framing members. They occur between about 1870 and 1940. Ridge vents and other roof ventilations on tobacco barns date to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>28</sup> Carpenter Family Vertical Files, Calvert County Historical Society. Unpublished.

<sup>29</sup> Carpenter, Evelyn B.. "History of Carpenters Beach." 1984: 6.

<sup>30</sup> Carpenter, Evelyn B.. "History of Carpenters Beach." 1984: 6.



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-472

Name Bellcar, Evelyn B. Carpenter House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 6

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school house on Plum Point Road before she married Oscar.<sup>31</sup> The couple had three children, Margaret, Louise and Anne. Louise Carpenter Rymer owns the property today.

The Carpenters owned extensive property along the east side of Wilson Road, and north along Plum Point Road. Historic maps show that Plum Point Road once ran north of the Carpenter property, and then looped southeast by Letchworth's Chance (the Needle Estate) and east to Plum Point. Their property included a main house (Bellcar), several barns, three tenant houses, and a number of rental cottages by the beach. The large acreage and the family's ingenuity allowed the Carpenters to take on a variety of incomes.

First and foremost, the Carpenters farmed tobacco and raised cattle. In 1923 Oscar Carpenter took over the tobacco farming from tenants who had allowed the land to become overgrown. Oscar taught his daughters about growing tobacco and let them pick up the ground leaves after they had been cut to earn money.<sup>32</sup> The farm also had an apple orchard (where the cottages of Carpenter's Beach were later constructed) and a watermelon patch. Following Oscar's death in 1961, Evelyn continued to run the farm.<sup>33</sup>

The Carpenters had help farming and doing work around the house from tenant farmers. Some of these workers lived in houses on the property. Several of these houses are located on what is now the north side of Plum Point Road. Others lived in dwellings closer to the main house. Evelyn Carpenter recalled Maggie and Manny Reid, who lived on a tenant house near the cottages on the beach that is now a beach cottage. Manny helped with the farming and Maggie helped Evelyn Carpenter in the house.<sup>34</sup> They later moved down to a tenant house on Wilson Road. John Mackall, a family friend who grew up with Oscar, helped around the farm and lived a small dwelling near the well by the main house. When he married, he and his wife Sallie moved into a tenant house built directly behind the Needle Estate.<sup>35</sup> As Evelyn Carpenter recalled, later residents of that house included Brown and Bernice and William and Jeannette.<sup>36</sup>

In August of 1933 the Wilson Road area was hit by a major hurricane; the devastation to the sale of that years' tobacco crop led the Carpenters to make an important financial decision. The family withdrew their money from the bank and built a rental cottage in the spring of 1936 and several more later that year.<sup>37</sup> Each year after that they built more cottages according to what they could afford and charged \$125-\$150 a season for renters.<sup>38</sup> By

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<sup>31</sup> Carpenter, Evelyn B.. "History of Carpenters Beach." 1984: 7.

<sup>32</sup> Carpenter, Evelyn B.. "History of Carpenters Beach." 1984: 8.

<sup>33</sup> Carpenter, Evelyn B.. "History of Carpenters Beach." 1984: 11.

<sup>34</sup> Carpenter, Evelyn B.. "History of Carpenters Beach." 1984: 11.

<sup>35</sup> Carpenter, Evelyn B.. "History of Carpenters Beach." 1984: 11.

<sup>36</sup> Carpenter, Evelyn B.. "History of Carpenters Beach." 1984: 11. Last names are unknown, but these were most likely African-Americans.

<sup>37</sup> Carpenter, Evelyn B.. "History of Carpenters Beach." 1984: 8.

<sup>38</sup> Carpenter, Evelyn B.. "History of Carpenters Beach." 1984: 8.



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-472

Name Belcar, Evelyn B. Carpenter House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 7

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1961, the year Oscar died, they had built 30 cottages.<sup>39</sup> A pool was later added at the north end of the cottages. Carpenter's Beach became a popular summer destination for Marylanders traveling from Washington, D.C., Virginia, Delaware, and Pennsylvania as well as local Wilson Road residents (the Jones). Descendants of the original tenants continue to rent the cottages today, maintaining this small community.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Evelyn Carpenter House and Farm, also known as Belcar, is significant architecturally, as the main house is a fine representation of a vernacular Victorian farmhouse of the late-nineteenth century, while its barns are representative of small farm outbuildings, including the vanishing Maryland tobacco barn. The property is also significant as a tobacco farm that made use of tenant farming and operated as a tourist destination, as Carpenter's Beach grew to be an important vacation community in the area. Its association with the Carpenter family, who has lived on the property since the late-nineteenth century, as well as its contributions to the development of Plum Point's tourism and tobacco industries, makes it a significant property along the Wilson Road corridor.

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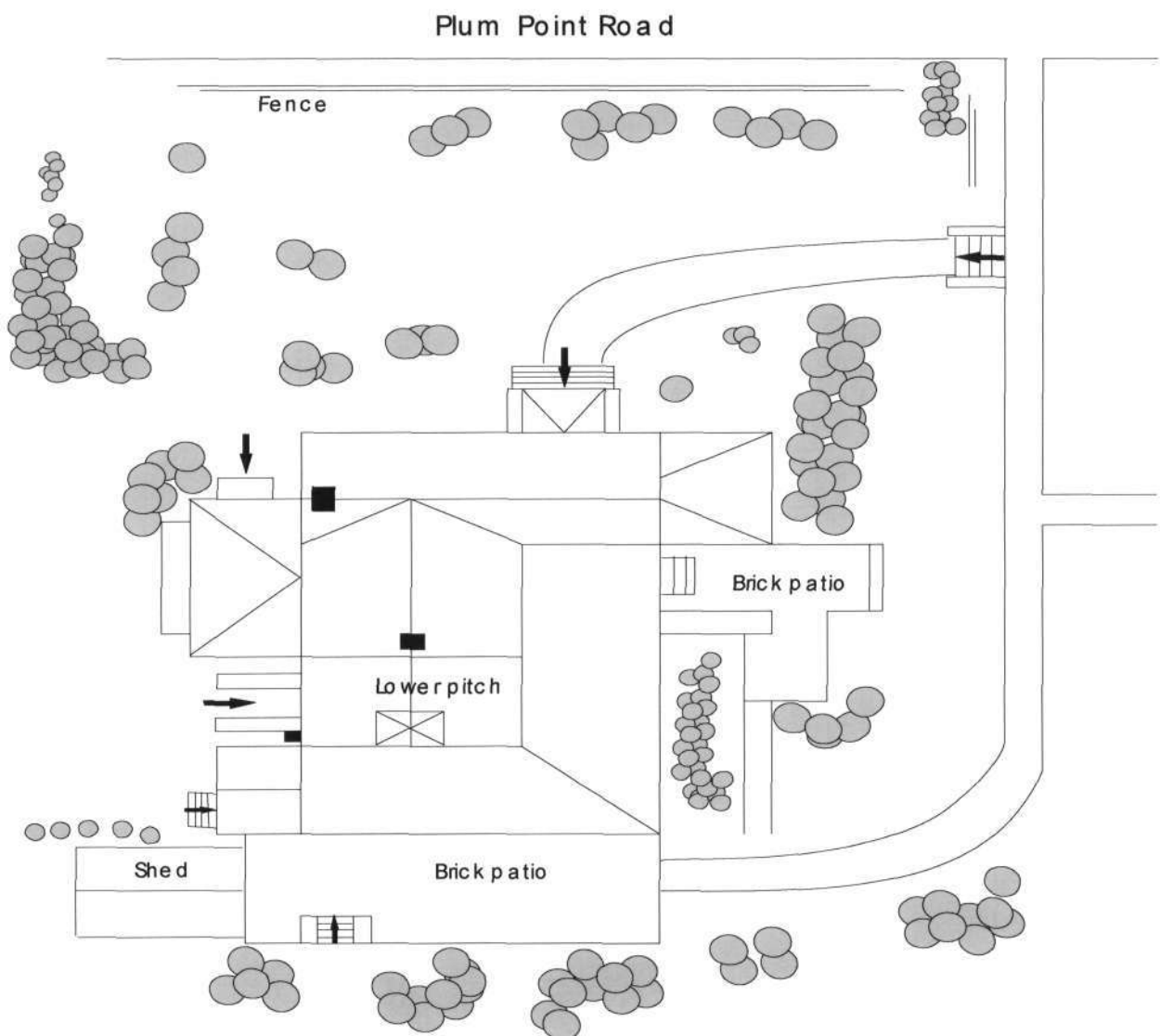
<sup>39</sup> Carpenter, Evelyn B.. "History of Carpenters Beach." 1984: 11.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-472

Name Bellcar, Evelyn B. Carpenter House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1



Maryland Historical Trust Inventory No. CT472  
Evelyn B. Carpenter House, "Bellcar"  
Huntington, Calvert County MD  
Site Plan  
Not to Scale  
House, 5105 Plum Point Road



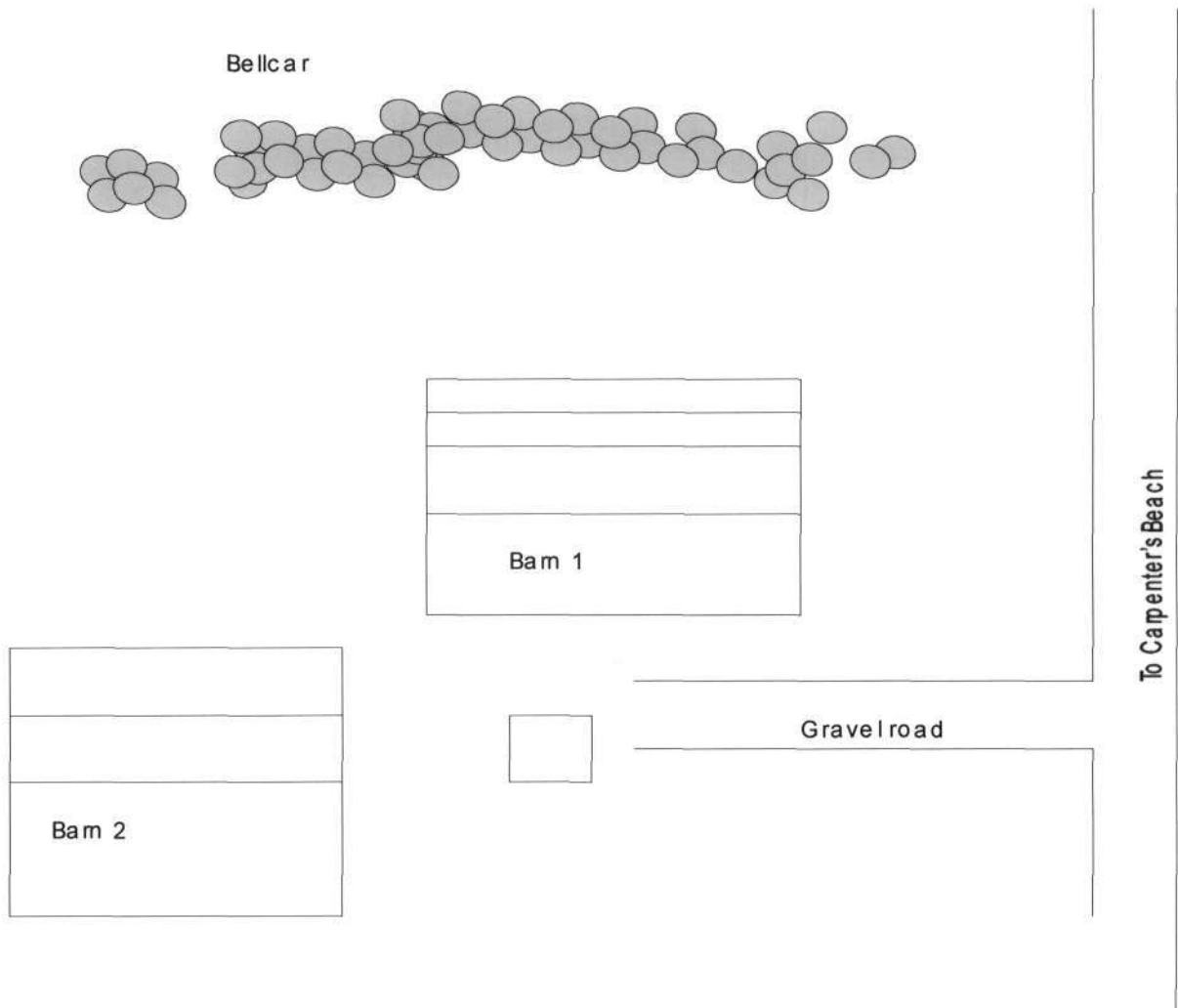
North

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-472

Name Bellcar, Evelyn B. Carpenter House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 2



Maryland Historical Trust Inventory No. CT472  
Evelyn B. Carpenter House, Barns  
Huntington, Calvert County MD  
Site Plan  
Not to Scale  
House, 5105 Plum Point Road



North

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-472

Name Bellcar, Evelyn B. Carpenter House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 3

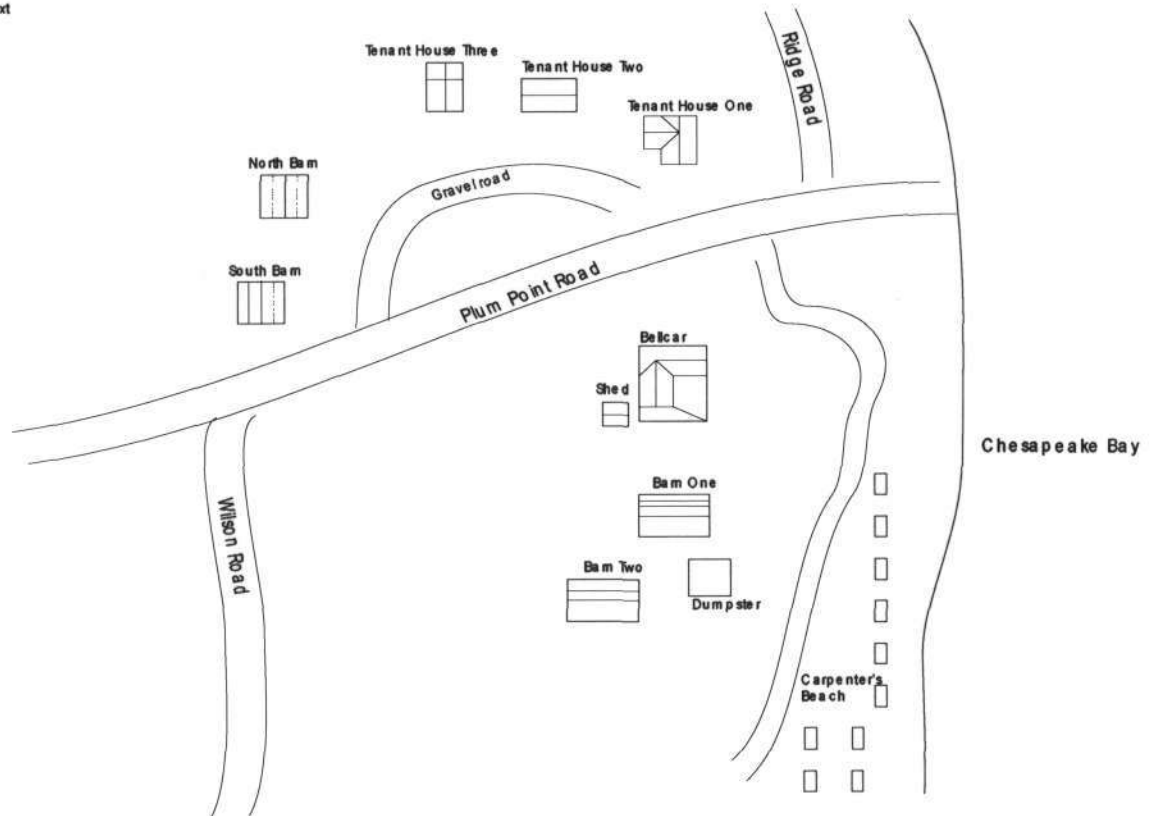
Evelyn B. Carpenter Farm, "Bellcar" Context  
Tax Map 19, Parcel 21  
Huntington, Calvert County MD  
Site Plan  
Not to Scale

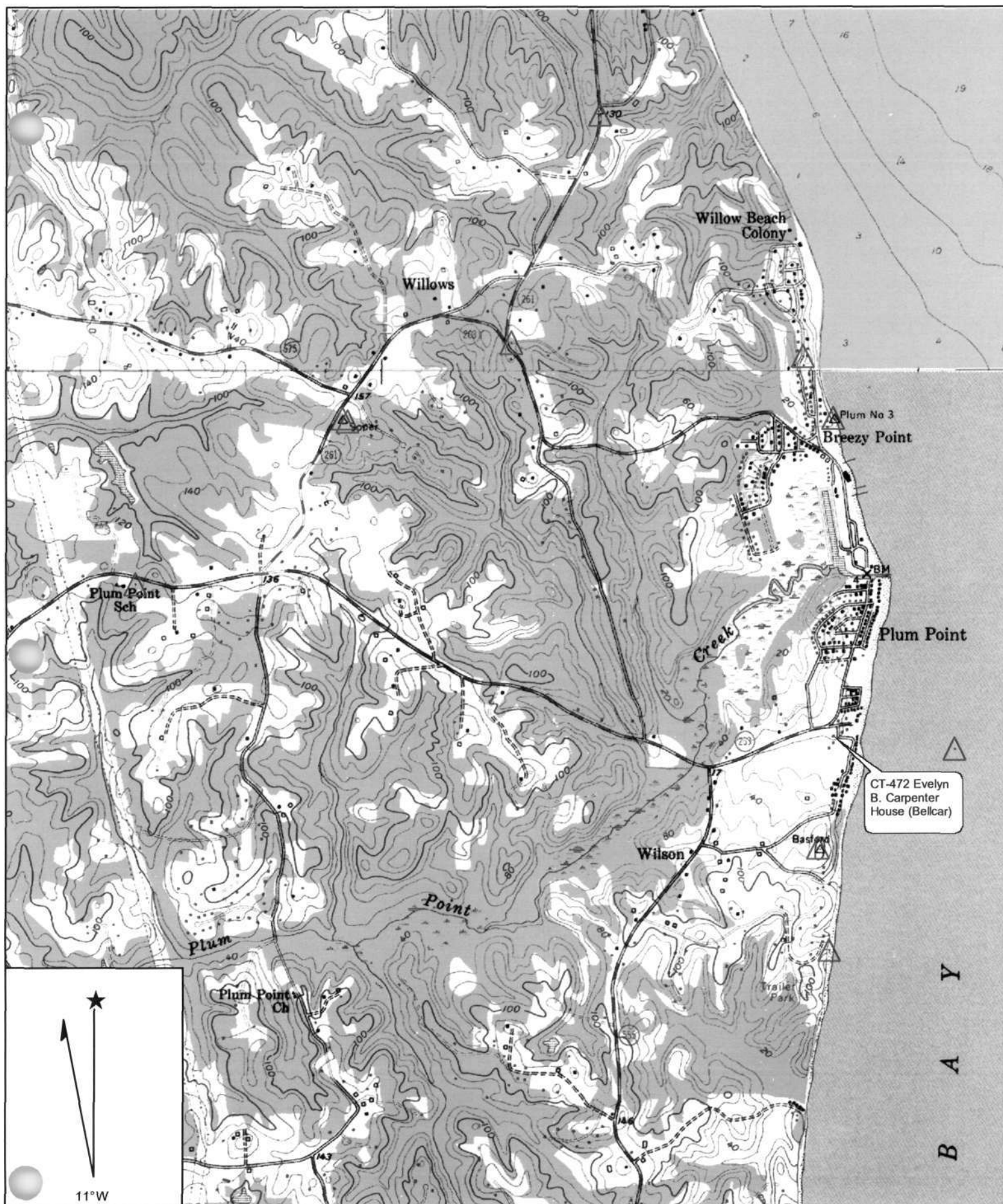
Carpenter Tenant House  
5095 Plum Point Road, Huntington, MD

Carpenter's Beach  
5095 Plum Point Road, Huntington, MD

Carpenter Bams  
5095 Plum Point Road, Huntington, MD

Evelyn B. Carpenter House  
5095 Plum Point Road, Huntington, MD





Name: PRINCE FREDERICK  
 Date: 5/4/2009  
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 038°36' 50.67" N 076°32' 03.48" W  
 Caption: CT-472 Evelyn B. Carpenter House  
 5105 Plum Point Road,  
 Huntingtown, MD





CT-472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bellcar

Calvert County, MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Carpenter Building Elevation East

1 of 22



CT-472

Kielyn B. Carpenter House / Bellour  
Calvert County, MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Carpenter Building Elevation Northeast

2 of 22





CT-472

Evelyn B Carpenter House / Bell car

Calvert County, MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPD

Carpenter Building Elevation West

3 of 22



CT-472

Evelyn B Carpenter House / Bellair

Calvert County, MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Carpenter Building Elevation South

4 of 22



C7-472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bellair  
Calvert County, MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Facade North

5 of 22



CT-472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bellcar

Calvert County, MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Elevation West

6 of 22





CT - 472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bellcar

Calvert Cliffs, MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Elevation West Detail

7 of 22



CT-472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bellar

Calvert Cliffs, MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Elevation South

8 of 22



CT-472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bellar

Calvert County, MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Stevenson East

9 of 22





CT-472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bellan

Calvert Cliffs, MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Facade North Window Detail

10 of 22



CT-472

Evlyn B. Carpenter House / Bellair  
Calvert County MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Shed Elevator South

11 of 22



CT-472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bellar

Calvert County, MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Shed Elevation East

12 of 22



CT- 472.

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bell car

Calvert County, MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Context East to Carpenter's Beach

13 of 22





CT-472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bellcar

Calvert County, MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Carpenter's House Barns Context East

14 of 22



CT-472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bellcar

Calvert County, MD

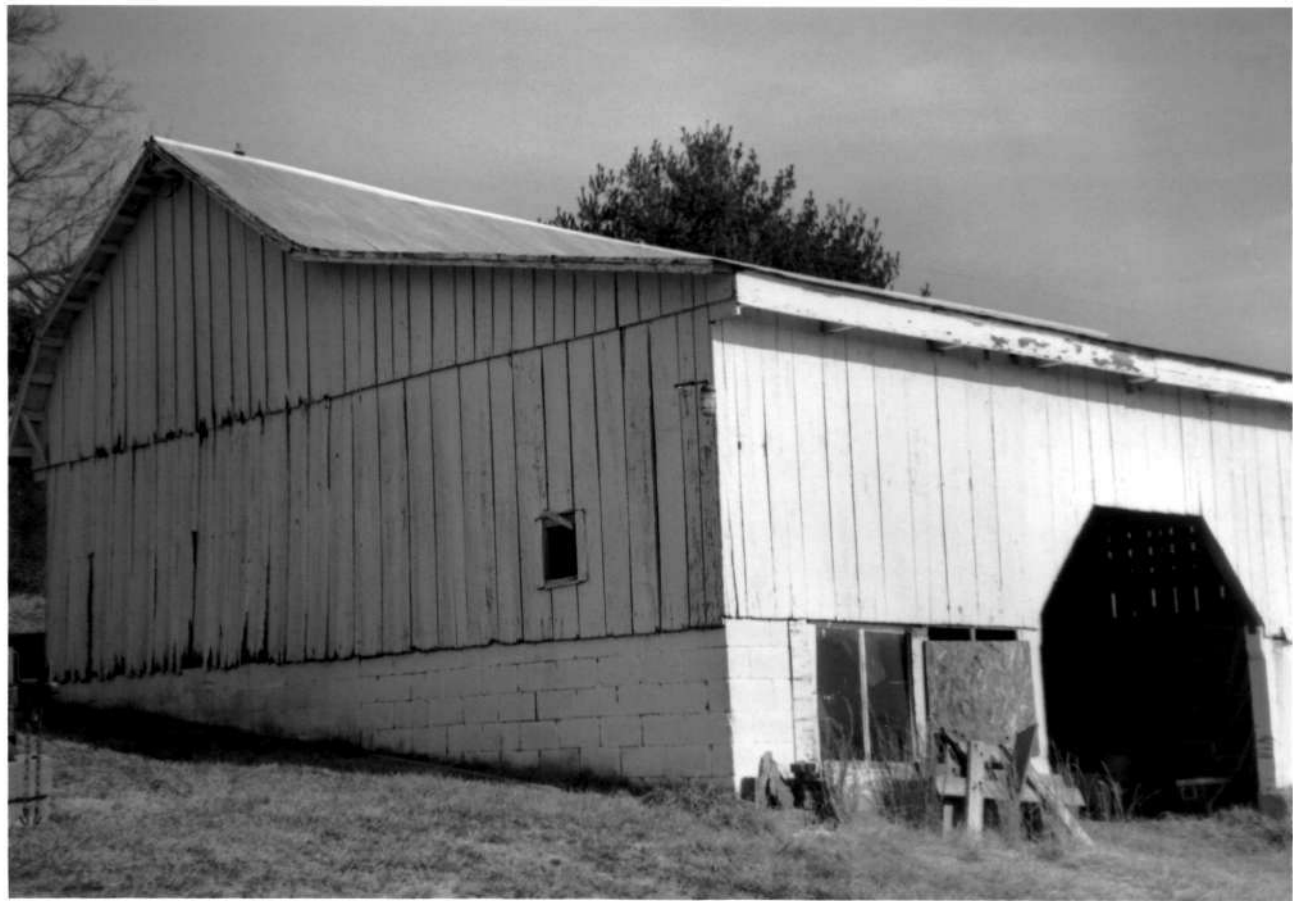
Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Carpenter's House Barn 1 elevation South

15 of 22



CT- 472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bell car  
Calvert County, MD

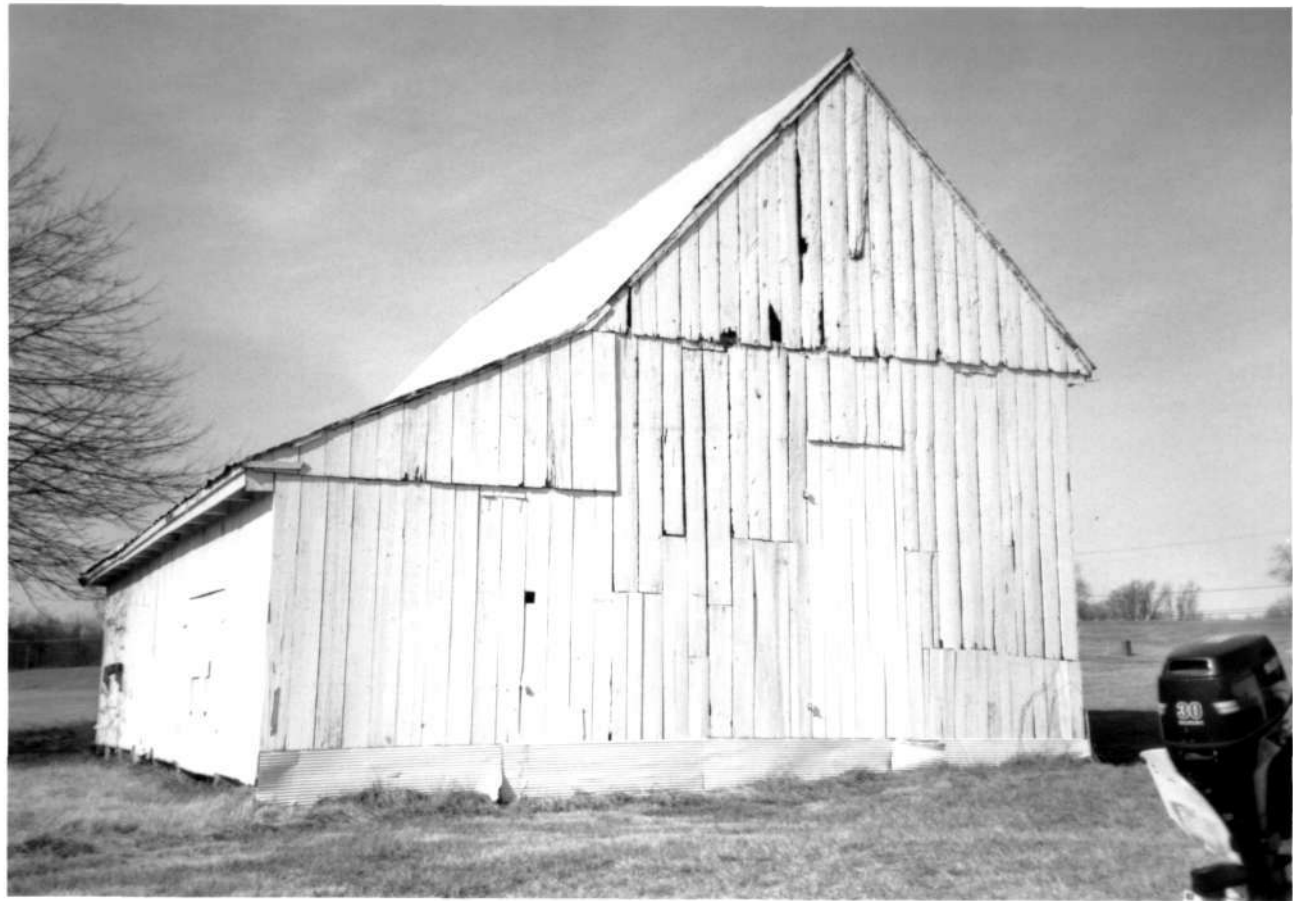
Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPD

Carpenter's House Barn 1 Elevation West

16 of 22





CT-472.

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bellcar

Calvert County MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Carpenter's House Barn 2 Elevation East

17 of 22



CT-472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bellcar

Calvert County MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPD

Carpenter's House Barn 2 Elevation South

18 of 22



CT-472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bellcar

Calvert County, MD

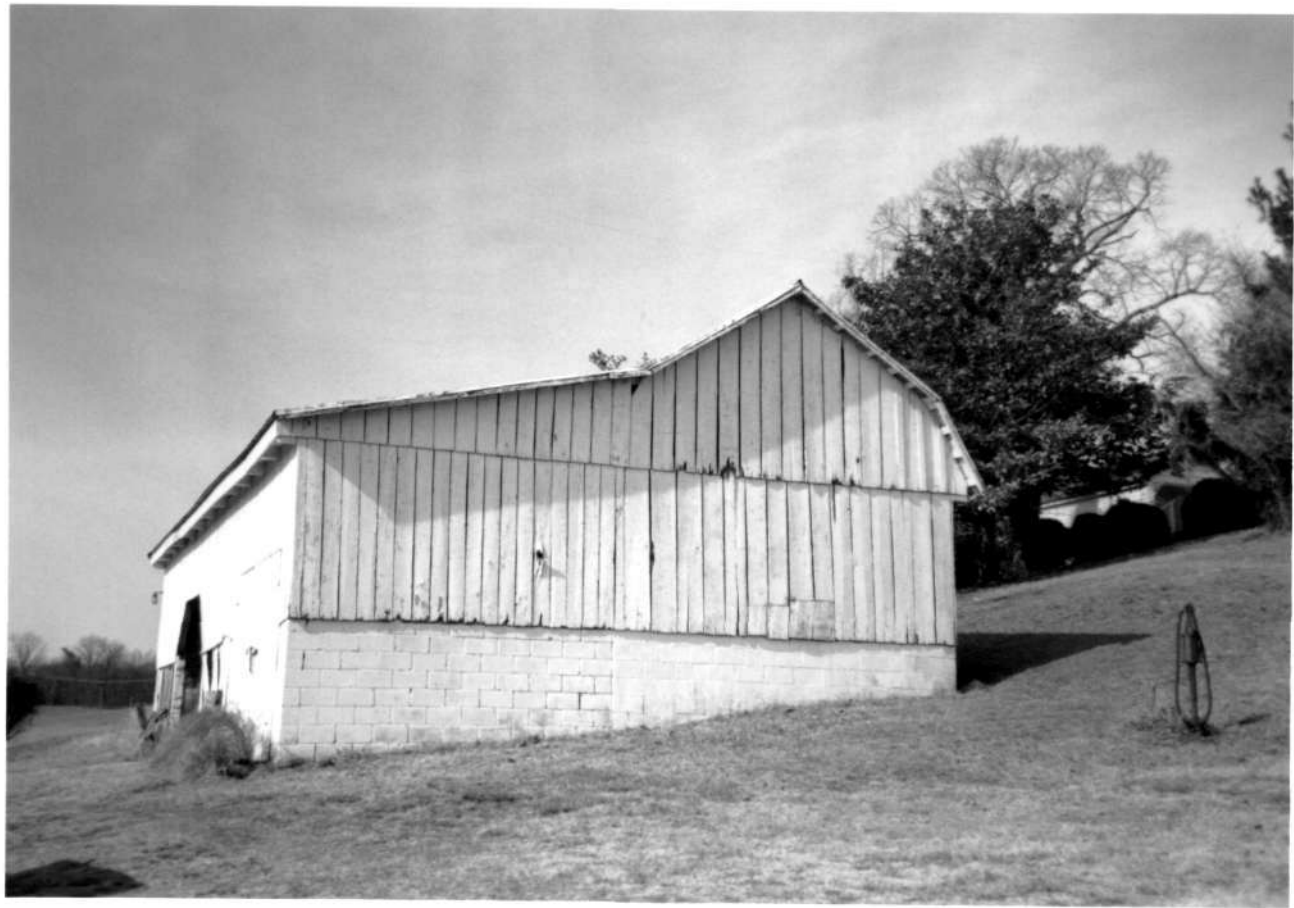
Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPD

Carpenter's House Barn 2 Elevation North

19 of 22



CT-472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bellcar  
Calvert County, MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Carpenter's House Barn 1 Elevation East  
20 of 22





CT-472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bellcar  
Calvert County MD

Stacy Patterson

2.9.2009

MD SHPO

Carpenter's Beach to House

21 of 22



CT - 472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House / Bell car

Calvert County MD

Stacy Patterson

2-9-2009

MD SHPD

Context + Southeast

22 of 22

CT-472  
Evelyn B. Carpenter House  
Wilson  
Private

Early 20th century

This two-story frame house is built in an L-shape, with one section projecting at the front. Each elevation of each section consists of a single bay. A one-story porch fills in the "L" at the facade. A kitchen addition completes the plan. All sections are covered with gable roofs. This is a typical front-ell house built in rural areas and small towns in the first quarter of this century.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY 412

M.A. 101  
052 5935**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Evelyn B. Carpenter House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Carpenter Beach Road

CITY, TOWN

Wilson

☒ VICINITY OF Plum Point

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Calvert

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Evelyn B. Carpenter

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

SAME

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

20639

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse

Liber #: 351

Folio #: 484

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Main Street (MD Route 765)

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CT-472

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two-story frame house is built in an L-shape, with one section projecting at the front. Each elevation of each section consists of a single bay. A one-story porch fills in the "L" at the facade. A kitchen addition completes the plan. All sections are covered with gable roofs.

Two over two sash windows framed in plain flat boards light the house. It is heated by a central brick stove-flue chimney. The porch features round tapered posts and a plain balustrade. The north facade's entrance is topped by a transom. Asbestos shingles cover the walls.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

CT-472

## PERIOD

☐ PREHISTORIC  
☐ 1400-1499  
☐ 1500-1599  
☐ 1600-1699  
☐ 1700-1799  
☐ 1800-1899  
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ ARCHITECTURE  
☐ ART  
☐ COMMERCE  
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING  
☐ CONSERVATION  
☐ ECONOMICS  
☐ EDUCATION  
☐ ENGINEERING  
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
☐ INDUSTRY  
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
☐ LAW  
☐ LITERATURE  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSIC  
☐ PHILOSOPHY  
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION  
☐ SCIENCE  
☐ SCULPTURE  
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  
☐ THEATER  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES      Early 20th Century      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is a typical front-ell house built in rural areas and small towns in the first quarter of this century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Merry Stinson

ORGANIZATION

Calvert County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route 5, Box 154

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Leitersburg,

STATE

Maryland 21740

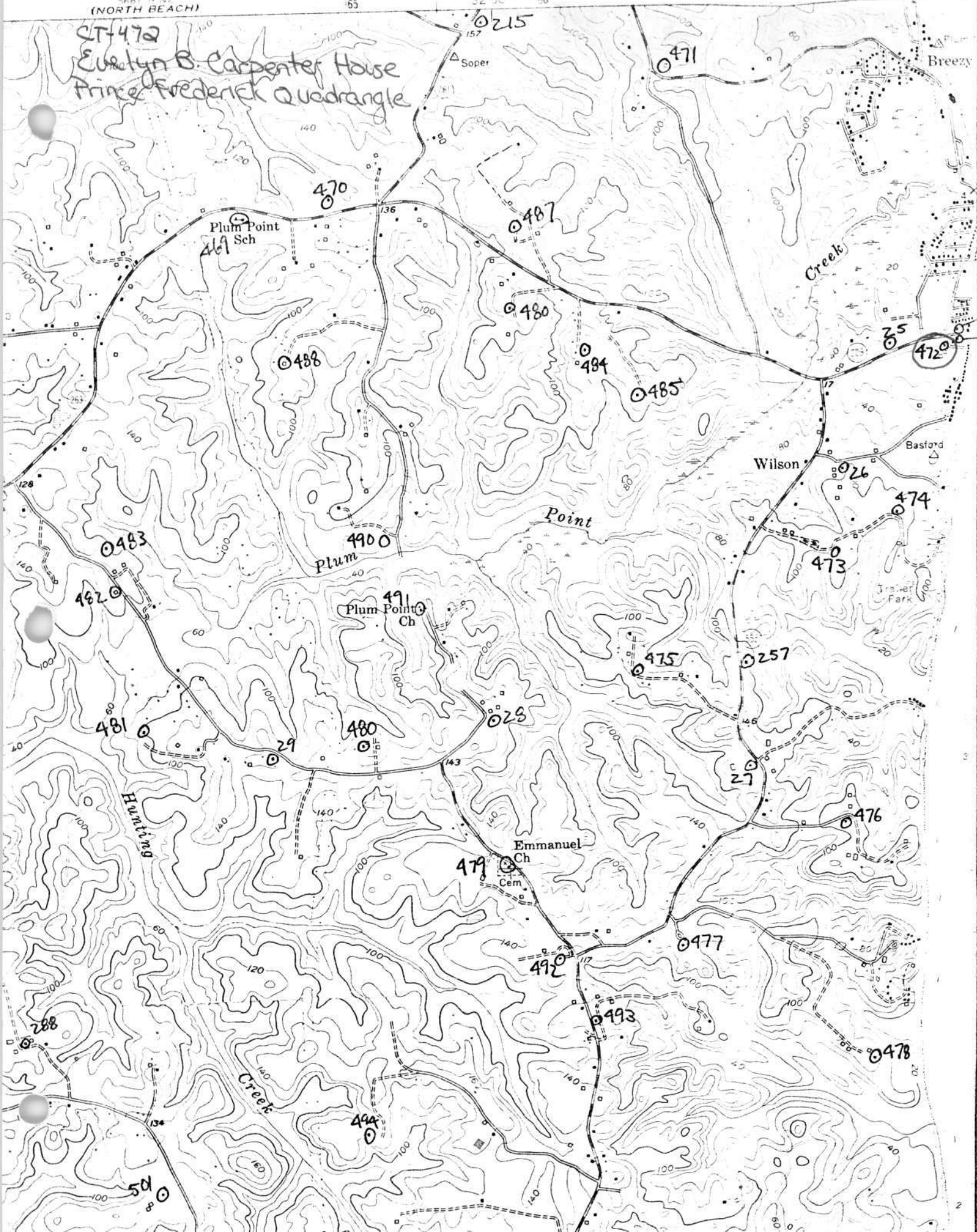
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



ST-472  
Evelyn B. Carpenter House  
Prince Frederick Quadrangle





CT-472

Evelyn B. Carpenter House

Calvert County

Merry Stinson Spring 1979

N elevation